

WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT
(Somerset).



Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1940.

By R. DE VEIL KING,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1940.**

WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1940.

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WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year 1940.

Area (in Acres)	2,186
Estimate of Resident Population, mid-year, 1940	7,524
Census Population, 1931.....	7,132
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Book on Dec. 31st, 1940	2,069
Rateable Value—31st Dec., 1940	£37,339
Sum represented by 1d. rate—31st Dec., 1940	£147 12s. 4d.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births:—for I.M. rate 110—for B. rate 99.

	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	95	52	43	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population —13.12.
Illegitimate ..	4	3	1	
	99	55	44	

Still Births—Total .. 1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 10.0

Rate per 1,000 Resident Population

Deaths—Total .. 98.

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 13.02

Deaths from Puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

		Rates per 1,000	
		Deaths.	Births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis	nil	nil	
No. 30. Other Puerperal causes	nil	nil	

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—

Legitimate, 4; Illegitimate, 1. Total Infant Deaths ..	5
All Infants per 1,000 live births	45.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	37.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	250.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17
Measles (all ages)	nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	nil

Multiplied by the factor 0.82 for the death rate, supplied by the Registrar-General, these rates become comparable with those for England and Wales:—

	<i>Eng. and Wales.</i>	<i>Wellington U.D.</i>
Live Birth rate per 1,000 population	14.6	13.12
Still Birth rate per 1,000 population	0.55	0.13
Death rate per 1,000 population	14.3	10.67
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ..	55.0	45.45
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births:—		
(a) Puerperal Sepsis	0.52	nil
(b) Other causes	1.64	nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total 2.16	nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Causes of Death during 1940.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Causes	45	53	98
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	1
Influenza	2	1	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Other Tuberculous Disease	1	—	1
Syphilis	1	1	2
Cancer, malignant disease	8	9	17
Diabetes	—	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	2	4	6
Heart Disease	11	11	22
Other Circulatory Diseases	7	5	12
Bronchitis	—	2	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	2	5
Peptic Ulcer	—	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	—	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	—	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Diseases	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc. ...	2	3	5
Suicide	—	1	1
Other Violence	3	—	3
Other Defined Diseases	2	10	12
Causes ill-defined or unknown			
Total ..	45	53	98

Infant Mortality During 1940.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Congenital Causes ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	3
Prematurity	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Heat Stroke	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	4	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	1	7

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The Hospitals, Clinics, Treatment Centres and Ambulance facilities are fully described in the Report for 1938. No changes have occurred since then.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.—This was fully described in the Report for 1938. During 1940, the Chlorination of the Water Supply has been considered by the Council in view of Ministry of Health Circular 2086A, and two Water Pressure Operated Hypochlorinators manufactured by Messrs. Wallace Tiernan, Ltd. are on order but not installed by the end of 1940. These will be installed at Westford and Payton Pumping Stations. They are capable of applying up to a maximum of 5lbs. chlorine per 24 hours in the form of a 1% Sodium Hypochlorite Sterilising Solution against pressures varying from 10 to 125lbs. per sq. inch. The cost of the two plants, including fixing, is £263.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—There is nothing new to report since the Report for 1939. The reconditioned sludge beds therein described are functioning satisfactorily.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—The following tabular statement is supplied by MR. A. J. HILL, under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:—

Nature and Number of Inspections during the year:—

Dwelling-houses	53
Premises where Food is sold or prepared	12
Bakehouses	8
Disinfections for Infectious Diseases	33

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	21
Statutory Notices	0

Results of Notices served:—

Total Notices complied with	18
Notices standing over at the end of 1940	3

Conditions Remedied:—

Defective Drainage	23
Structural Repairs executed	0
Defective Sanitary Fittings	31
Disinfections	33
Dampness abated	11
Provision of New Water Closets	9
Miscellaneous	17

OVERCROWDING.—Previous to the outbreak of this war, overcrowding was on the decline, mainly due to rehousing in connection with Clearance Areas. Since then a large number of persons have evacuated themselves from bombed areas and have found their own accommodation in the district and so some overcrowding has taken place, but every endeavour is being made to find these cases and to re-billet them. About 2,000 evacuees not under the Government Scheme have come to reside in the district. There is still a shortage of houses to meet the general needs of the district and in consequence 32 dwelling-houses in confirmed Clearance Areas have been re-occupied to house large families of evacuees under the Government Evacuation Scheme. At the close of the year, under this Scheme, the following were billeted in the district:—

Unaccompanied Children	606
Accompanied Children	402
Mothers	353
Teachers	33
Helper	1
Other Adults	153

Total Persons 1548

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—The usual routine work with regard to safeguarding the Milk Supply has been carried out, including the systematic inspection of farms and dairies, the taking of samples of Milk for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, and the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. No legal action was necessary during the year.

14 Samples of Milk have been taken for bacteriological examination by the County Analyst, as follows:—

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken.</i>	<i>No. found satisfactory</i>	<i>No. found unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested	—	—	—
Pasteurised	7	6	1
Accredited	4	2	2
Examined for tubercle bacilli	3	3	—
Totals ..	14	11	3

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936:—Under this Order the following Licences are in force in the District:—

Licences: Pasteurised Milk 2
the above being produced in the district. In addition, the Local Authority have issued the following Supplementary Licences for Milk vended in the district but not produced therein:—

Supplementary Licences: Pasteurised Milk 1
Accredited Milk 1
Tuberculin Tested Milk 1

The Tuberculosis Order, 1925:—No cows were slaughtered.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926:—The Registers which have to be kept under this Order supply the following information:—

No. of Producers on the Register 25

No. of Distributors as follows:—

Distributors only 14

Distributors who are also Producers 11

MEAT SUPPLY.—There are Seven Registered and one Licensed Slaughter-houses in the District. Owing to the present emergency, all meat arriving in the district is the result of the slaughter of Animals and their Inspection as meat fit for human consumption by the Sanitary Inspector of the Taunton Rural District in which area the Central Slaughter-house is situated.

BAKEHOUSES.—These are four Bakehouses in the district and eight Inspections were made. They are in a satisfactory condition.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

The following Table summarises the total number of cases of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) occurring during the year:—

<i>Diseases</i>	No. of Cases notified and Ages.							
	<i>At All Ages.</i>	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 up
Diphtheria	17	—	1	9	3	3	1	—
Scarlet Fever	15	—	2	13	—	—	—	—
Measles	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
Whooping Cough	21	1	8	11	—	1	—	—

The Rates for Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Puerperal Pyrexia and Whooping Cough may be compared with those for England and Wales as a whole, as follows:—

	<i>England & Wales.</i>	<i>Wellington U.D.</i>
Diphtheria	1.16	2.2
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.9
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	11.96	54.0
Whooping Cough	1.34	2.7

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the Area during 1940 are given in the following Form required by the Ministry of Health:—

<i>Age Periods.</i>	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.....	3	5	1	—	1	—	—	—

The Tuberculosis Register shows that at the end of the year there were residing in the district—65 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 5 cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

